

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (currently amended) An espresso machine with an infusion piston displaceable inside an infusion cylinder, which infusion piston is force-connected ~~via~~ to a spring and to a device for activating the infusion piston and, in a first position, tightly encloses ground coffee inside an infusion chamber of the infusion cylinder between itself and an outlet sieve, wherein a pressurized water inlet is connected to the infusion chamber, the infusion piston (2) is automatically pushed by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion cylinder (1) and counter to a spring force to a second predetermined position, thereby expanding the infusion chamber, whereupon during a pressure drop inside the infusion chamber (6) the infusion piston (2) is returned automatically to the first position,

**characterized in that**

the infusion piston (2) can essentially be displaced proportional to a pressure increase inside the infusion chamber (6), caused by the infusion water flowing in, until it reaches a nominal opening pressure for a frothing valve (7) that closes off the infusion chamber (6) in downstream direction.

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Claim 2. (previously presented) An espresso machine according to claim 1,

**characterized in that**

the spring is a compression spring (14), arranged coaxial to the infusion piston (2) above the infusion cylinder (1), between this piston and an element that is fixedly installed relative to the infusion cylinder (1).

Claims 3 and 4. (cancelled)

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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet